

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
)	
Toshihiro Hanada)	Group Art Unit: 3753
)	
Application No.: 10/588,123)	Examiner: STEPHEN M
)	HEPPERLE
Filed: August 1, 2006)	
)	Confirmation No.: 3679
For: VALVE AND FLUID SYSTEM)	
HAVING THAT VALVE)	
)	
)	
)	

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A Notice of Allowance was issued in this application on February 19, 2009. An Examiner's Amendment accompanies the Notice of Allowance, setting forth the changes to independent Claim 1. In addition, the Examiner comments on the claim amendment. Applicant submits the following remarks in response to the Examiner's comments.

The amendment to Claim 1 clarifies that the claimed pair of leg parts are a continuation of (i.e., are continuous with) the drive part such that the leg parts and the drive part are formed of a single unitary piece.

The earlier prior art rejections were based on the observation that the studs/screws (i.e., the studs/screws connecting the end plate 17 to the valve body 11 in the Shelton patent) could be interpreted to be leg parts as claimed. However, in the prior art references, the studs/screws are not a part of the valve body, but rather are pieces separate from the valve body. In contrast, the leg parts of the valve here constitute a part of the drive part. Thus, the language added to Claim 1 simply

makes clear that the leg parts are a continuous extension of the side faces of the drive part such that the leg parts and the drive part form a single unitary part.

During discussions with the Examiner about clarifying the Claim 1 language to better distinguish over the cited prior art, the "single unitary piece" language was discussed. The Examiner expressed the view that this language might still be interpreted to include the prior art arrangements. This view was based on the belief that when the studs/screws in the prior art arrangements are screwed into the valve body, the resulting appearance looks like a single unitary piece. To respond to this point, Claim 1 was further amended to recite that the side faces of the leg parts form a continuous extension of the side faces of the drive part - - meaning that the leg parts are a part of the drive part, and the side surfaces of the leg parts and the side surfaces of the drive part are side surfaces of a common part.

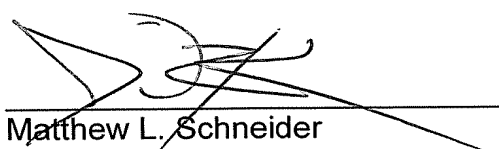
This paper is being filed to clarify the record about the reason for the Claim 1 amendment in the event the Examiner's comments might be read to suggest a different reason.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: APRIL 1, 2009

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